(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 63.112 lakhs has been provided to the States of Maharashtra (Rs. 41.25 lakhs), Arunachal Pradesh (Rs. 11.362 lakhs) and Karnataka (Rs. 10.50 lakhs) during 2000-01 for setting up of fodder banks.

(c) to (e) Rs. 41.25 lakhs were released to the Government of Tamil Nadu during 1993-94 for setting up of fodder bank. The State has still an unspent amount of Rs. 11.205 lakhs out of the above amount.

Making agriculture remunerative

†2109. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agriculture in regions like Haryana, Punjab, Western Uttar Pradesh and in almost all the areas of the country is constantly turning into non-remunerative;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to take any concrete steps to make agriculture remunerative in these areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities announced by the Government not only cover cost of production, but also a reasonable margin as an incentive to the farmers to invest and improve production and productivity. The Government also organizes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies such as Food Corporation of India (F.C.I.), Jute Corporation of India (J.C.I.), Cotton Corporation of India (C.C.I.), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) and Tobacco Board, besides other agencies designated by the State Governments.

In order to encourage farmers to switch over to more remunerative crops, the Government has also been announcing relatively higher

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Minimum Support Prices for crops like pulses and oilseeds *vis-a-vis* paddy and wheat. With a view to enhance value addition in agriculture, the Union Budget 2003-04 has proposed a new Central Sector Scheme on Hi-tech Horticulture and Precision Farming. The major components of this scheme are use of hi-tech interventions like fertigation, use of biotechnological tools, green food products, and hi-tech green houses.

Cancer drugs under DPCO

2110. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Cancer Care Foundation and others are demanding for putting cancer drugs under Drug Price Control Order; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) National Cancer Care Foundation has sent its suggestions to the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to make the drugs used in the treatment of cancer affordable. The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO,95.These drugs have been identified for inclusion under price control in the DPCO, 95, on the basis of criteria mentioned in the 'Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986', announced in September, 1994. These criteria take into account the extent of usage and the market competition of various drugs. None of the 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of DPCO, 95 is an anti-cancer drug.

Processing of farm product

2111. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to take up farm product processing is under the consideration of IFFCO;